

For issue to Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (Employees and Contract Partners)

# SHE COMMUNICATION

## Breach of Operational Safety Rules

### What happened:

On 27 January this year four of our colleagues were working at an indoor substation site when an operational incident occurred. Persons working on site gained access to the main tank of an 11kV ground mounted circuit breaker and, inadvertently, subsequently gained access to the adjoining selector tank containing live high voltage conductors, causing the circuit protection systems to operate effectively.

No serious injuries were incurred during the incident, but the potential was present.

The initial investigation into this incident has confirmed this was contrary to the requirements of the Operational Safety Rules.

### Immediate learning:

Although the investigation into this incident is ongoing; there are some immediate learning points which should be shared with all operational persons:

- Before starting work on the High Voltage (HV) System the Senior Authorised Person (SAP) must personally identify the assets to be worked on and effectively explain the controls put in place to ensure safety from the System and compliance with the Operational Safety Rules.
- Competent Persons receiving Safety Documents must check and ensure the controls put in place to ensure safety from the System are fit for purpose and acceptable.
- When putting Persons to work on the HV System, SAPs must ensure the correct Safety Document is used for the work planned, and the assets on which the work will be completed.
- Competent Persons receiving Safety Documents must ensure the Safety Document being issued is the correct type for the work planned, and the assets on which the work will be completed.
- Competent Persons must challenge SAPs if they believe the information being provided regarding the steps taken to ensure safety from the System are not clear or acceptable.
- Senior Authorised Persons must challenge Competent Persons (CPs) if the questioning offered by a Competent Person before accepting a Safety Document is not sufficiently searching/ rigorous.
- Without compromise, all operational Persons must comply with the requirements of the Operational Safety Rules, e.g. OSR 1.9, which covers Duties of Persons and a requirement to stop and ask for help if you're not sure.

**At Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks – if it's not safe, we don't do it.**

Communication by (✓)	Managers	✓	Notice board	✓	Tool-box talk	✓	Team brief	✓
Communication complete by (✓)	1 week	✓	2 weeks	-	1-month	-	2-months	-
Issued by: Andrew Roper, Designated Engineer					Date of issue: 07/02/2020			

